

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 10-19 are pending in the present application.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 18 and 19 are amended.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

### Amendments to the Specification

The specification is amended to correct typographical errors in specific chemical compounds. Support for the amendment is provided in the attached SciFinder reports wherein the chemical formula for the compound listed by registry number is provided.

No new matter is entered as a result of the amendments.

### Claim Objections

Claims 4-6, 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Each claim has been amended to independent form including all limitations of any claims from which they depend.

The objection is overcome by amendment thereby placing claims 4-6, 18 and 19 in condition for allowance.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Asano et al. (US 6,511,736.

The Office opines that Asano discloses an ink jet recording medium comprising the elements of claim 1. In particular, the Office opines that Asano discloses an undercoat layer comprising a pigment such as silica and a binder such as polyvinylalcohol and that the undercoat layer may optionally contain the cationic compound and further that the undercoat layer comprises a polymer resin containing repeating units derived from vinyl acetate monomer or vinyl propionate.

Applicant respectfully submits that Asano et al. fails to teach the present invention, particularly, with regards to the polymer.

Asano et al. disclose in claim 1 and elsewhere:

"a complex of a polymer of at least one monomer having at least one ethylenically unsaturated bond with colloidal silica"

At col.8, lines 9-15, Asano et al. specifically excludes the combination of colloidal silica and a polymer resin in the undercoat layer as two separate compounds, but presents a choice between the pigment, the polymer resin or a complex of pigment with polymer as stated in:

"To enhance the gloss of the ink jet recording material, a colloidal silica, or a polymer resin prepared by polymerizing at least one monomer having at least ethylenically unsaturated bond, or a complex of colloidal silica with a polymer resin produced by polymerizing at least one monomer having at least one ethylenically unsaturated bond, may be contained in the undercoat layer."

The teachings of Asano et al. specifies that in order for colloidal silica and a polymer resin as disclosed at col.8, lines 9-44, to be present, they must be present as a complex. However, col.8, line 52, discloses that:

"The complex of the colloidal silica with the polymer can be produced by polymerizing the ethylenically unsaturated

monomer or monomers in the presence of a silane coupling agent and a colloidal silica to form a Si--O--R bond (R represents the polymer component) through which the **polymer molecules are bonded with the colloidal silica particles**. Alternatively, the polymer/silica complex is produced by reacting a polymer modified with a silanol group with the colloidal silica to form a Si--O--R bond (R is as defined above) through which the polymer molecules are bonded with the colloidal silica particles." (emphasis added)

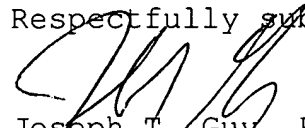
The covalent bond is formed between the polymer resin and the colloidal silica. We contend that no such covalent bond exists between the pigment and the film-forming polymer latex and hence Asano et al. does not anticipate present claim 1.

We therefore contend that claim 1 and the dependent claims 2 and 10-17 are novel under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

**CONCLUSIONS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 10-19 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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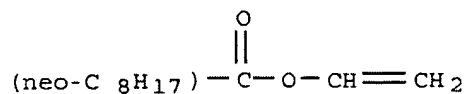
Telephone: 864-370-2211

Facsimile: 864-282-1177

March 17, 2004

**CAS No. 54423-67-5**

Registry Number: 54423-67-5

Formula: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

CA Index Name: Neononanoic acid, ethenyl ester (9CI)

Other Names: VeoVa 9

Class Identifier: Incompletely Defined Substance

**-- Resources --**

References: ~31

STN Files: CAPLUS, CA, CHEMCATS, CHEMLIST, CIN, CSChem, PROMT, TOXCENTER, USPAT2, USPATFULL

(Additional Information is available through STN International. Contact your information specialist, a local CAS representative, or the CAS Help Desk for Assistance)

Deleted Registry Number(s): 114238-41-4, 361341-72-2

Database: REGISTRY (Copyright 2004 ACS)

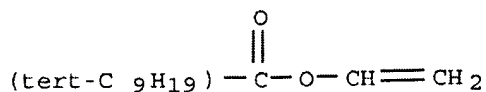
**Additional Information:**

Commercial Sources

Regulated Chemicals Listing

## CAS No. 26544-09-2

Registry Number: 26544-09-2



Formula: C12 H22 O2

CA Index Name: tert-Decanoic acid, ethenyl ester (9CI)

Other Names: tert-Decanoic acid, vinyl ester (8CI); VeoVa 10; Versatic 10 Acid, ethenyl ester

Class Identifier: Incompletely Defined Substance

## -- Resources --

References: ~64

STN Files: CAPLUS, CA, CBNB, CEN, CHEMCATS, CHEMLIST, CIN, PIRA, PROMT, TOXCENTER, USPAT2, USPATFULL

(Additional Information is available through STN International. Contact your information specialist, a local CAS representative, or the CAS Help Desk for Assistance)

Deleted Registry Number(s): 55965-62-3, 85771-98-8, 86142-44-1, 119478-43-2, 127695-55-0, 142785-28-2

Database: REGISTRY (Copyright 2004 ACS)

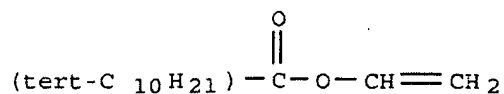
## Additional Information:

Commercial Sources

Regulated Chemicals Listing

**CAS No. 163633-66-7**

Registry Number: 163633-66-7

Formula: C<sub>13</sub> H<sub>24</sub> O<sub>2</sub>

CA Index Name: tert-Undecanoic acid, ethenyl ester (9CI)

Other Names: VeoVa 11

Class Identifier: Incompletely Defined Substance

**-- Resources --**

References: ~2

STN Files: CAPLUS, CA, CIN, USPATFULL

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Additional Information: